

HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP
JAMES E. CLYBURN
THE DAILY WHIPLINE

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
9:00 a.m. For Morning Hour 10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business Unlimited "One-minutes" Per Side	Last Vote: 7:00 p.m.

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **Postponed Suspension Votes:** At some point today, the House will take recorded votes on the following suspension bills, which were debated on Monday:
 1. **H.Res. 584** – Supporting the goals and ideals of "National Life Insurance Awareness Month" (*Rep. Biggert – Oversight and Government Reform*)
 2. **H.Con.Res. 210** – Supporting the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month (*Rep. Davis (IL) – Oversight and Government Reform*)
 3. **H.Res. 663** – Supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day (*Rep. Kline – Oversight and Government Reform*)
- **Suspension Bills:** Today, the House will consider several bills on the Suspension calendar. Bills considered on the Suspension calendar are debatable for 40 minutes; may not be amended; and require a two-thirds vote for passage. If a recorded vote is requested, it will be postponed.
 1. **H.R. 1400** – To enhance United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iran by imposing additional economic sanctions against Iran, and for other purposes (*Rep. Lantos – Foreign Affairs*)
 2. **H.Res. 548** – Expressing the ongoing concern of the House of Representatives for Lebanon's democratic institutions and unwavering support for the administration of justice upon those responsible for the assassination of Lebanese public figures opposing Syrian control of Lebanon (*Rep. Ackerman – Foreign Affairs*)

3. **H.R. 1302** - Global Poverty Act of 2007 (*Rep. Smith (WA) – Foreign Affairs*)
4. **H.Res. 642** – Expressing sympathy to and support for the people and governments of the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico which have suffered from Hurricanes Felix, Dean, and Henriette and whose complete economic and fatality toll are still unknown (*Rep. Solis – Foreign Affairs*)
5. **H.Res. 557** - Strongly condemning the United Nations Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human rights abuses in various countries, while choosing to unfairly target Israel by including it as the only country permanently placed on the Council's agenda (*Rep. Campbell –Foreign Affairs*)
6. **H.Res. 95** - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives supporting the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month, and for other purposes (*Rep. Jones (OH) – Education and Labor*)
7. **H.Res. 25** - Calling on the Board of Directors of the National High School Mock Trial Championship to accommodate students of all religious faiths (*Rep. Rothman – Education and Labor*)
8. **H.R. 3625** - To make permanent the waiver authority of the Secretary of Education with respect to student financial assistance during a war or other military operation or national emergency (*Rep. Sestak – Education and Labor*)
9. **H.Res. 590** - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families and communities (*Rep. Poe – Education and Labor*)
10. **H.R. 1943** – Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2007 (*Rep. Waters – Judiciary*)
11. **H.Res. 470** - Supporting efforts to increase childhood cancer awareness, treatment, and research (*Rep. Pryce (OH) – Energy and Commerce*)
12. **H.Con.Res. __** - To correct technical errors in the enrollment of the bill **H.R. 3580** (*Rep. Dingell – Energy and Commerce*)
13. **H.R. 3375** - To extend the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974 for 3 months (*Rep. Herger – Ways and Means*)

- **H. Res. 675–Rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 976, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes-the State Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 (Rep. McGovern–Rules):** The rule provides for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 976, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes. The rule makes in order a motion by the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce that the House concur in each of the Senate amendments to H.R. 976 with the respective amendment printed in the Rules Committee report. The rule waives all points of order against the motion except those arising under clause 10 of the rule XXI. The rule provides that the Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour general debate equally divided among and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. McGovern, and consideration will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the rule.
 - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
 - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**
- **Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 976, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes- State Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007- (Rep. Dingell-Energy and Commerce, Rep. Rangel-Ways and Means):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Rep. John Dingell and Ways and Means Committee Chair Rep. Charles Rangel, or their designees, and will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate.
 - Vote on adoption. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the measure.**

Bill Summary and Key Issues

STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Investing \$35 Billion in New Funding for CHIP. The agreement reauthorizes the Children’s Health Insurance Program; investing an additional \$35 billion over five years to strengthen CHIP’s financing, increase health insurance coverage for low-income children, and improve the quality of health care children receive.

Lowering the rate of uninsured low-income children. The agreement will provide health coverage to millions of low-income children who are currently uninsured. The bill also ensures that the 6.6 million children who currently participate in CHIP continue to receive health coverage. Pending final Congressional Budget Office estimates, the reduction in the number of uninsured children will approach four million children.

Improving Access to Benefits for Children (Dental Coverage/Mental Health Parity/EPSTD). Under the agreement, quality dental coverage will be provided to all children enrolled in CHIP. The agreement also ensures states will offer mental health services on par with medical and surgical benefits covered under CHIP, and protects medically necessary benefits (EPSTD) for low-income children.

Prioritizing children's coverage. The agreement makes several modifications as it relates to populations eligible for CHIP.

- Pregnant Women: The agreement provides coverage to pregnant women as a new state option as well as preserving the options to cover them through a state waiver or through regulation.
- Parents: The agreement prohibits any new waivers to cover parents in the CHIP program. States that have received waivers to cover low-income parents under CHIP will be allowed to transition parents into a separate block grant. The federal match for services to parents covered through CHIP will be reduced.
- Childless Adults: The agreement retains the current law prohibition of waivers to allow coverage of childless adults. Currently covered childless adults will transition off CHIP. For states that have received CHIP waivers to cover childless adults, the agreement terminates those waivers after a one-year period, provides temporary Medicaid funding for already-enrolled adults, and allows states to apply for a Medicaid waiver for coverage.

Providing states with incentives to lower the rate of uninsured low income children. Under the financing structure, states will receive state-based allotments that are responsive to state demographic and national spending trends and allow additional up-front funding for states planning improvements. States that face a funding shortfall and meet enrollment goals will receive an adjustment payment to ensure that no child who is eligible for Medicaid or CHIP is denied coverage or placed on a waiting list. The formula also sets in place new overall caps on federal funding to ensure the program's expenditures do not exceed the amounts authorized. The agreement provides incentives for states to lower the rate uninsured children by enrolling eligible children in CHIP or Medicaid.

Agreement Replaces CMS August 17th Letter to States. The Congress agrees with the President on the importance of covering low-income children have health coverage while taking steps to address crowd-out and prioritize coverage of lower income children. The agreement replaces the flawed CMS August 17th letter to states with a more thoughtful and appropriate approach. In place of the CMS letter, the agreement gives states time and assistance in

developing and implementing best practices to address crowd out. The agreement also puts the lowest income children first in line by phasing in a new requirement for coverage of low-income children as a condition of receiving CHIP funding for coverage of children above 300 percent of the poverty level.

Improving Outreach Tools to Simplify and Streamline Enrollment of Eligible Children. The agreement provides \$100 million in grants for new outreach activities to states, local governments, schools, community-based organizations, safety-net providers and others.

Improving the Quality of Health Care for Low-Income Children. The agreement establishes a new quality child health initiative to develop and implement quality measures and improve state reporting of quality data.

Improving Access to Private Coverage Options. The agreement expands on current premium assistance options for states. The agreement allows states to offer a premium assistance subsidy for qualified, cost-effective employer-sponsored coverage to children eligible for CHIP and who have access to such coverage. It also changes the federal rules governing employer-sponsored insurance to make it easier for states and employers to offer premium assistance programs.

Legislative language is currently being finalized, and will be available Monday. The House of Representatives will likely vote on legislation implementing this agreement on Tuesday of next week. The Senate will take up the measure shortly thereafter; to deliver a full renewal of the Children's Health Insurance Program to the President for signature into law before CHIP's current authorization expires on September 30.

Expands Access to Healthcare in a Fiscally Responsible Way Compliant with PAYGO. To cover the costs of the SCHIP program, the bill would increase the tax on cigarettes by \$0.61 per pack (to \$1.00 per pack) and the tax on all other tobacco products in a proportionate manner. This raises \$35.7 billion over five years and \$71.1 billion over ten years. This differs from the House-passed version of SCHIP, which would have increased the tax on cigarettes by \$0.45 cents (to \$0.84 per pack) and the tax on all other tobacco products in a proportionate manner. It would have imposed a floor stocks tax on cigarettes only. It would have raised \$26.3 billion over five years and \$52.8 billion over 10 years.

Quote of the Day

"Wise men appreciate all men, for they see the good in each and know how hard it is to make anything good" -Baltasar Gracian